

The young grub has the peculiar habit of eating holes in the centre of the leaf instead of from the margin inwards, as with most caterpillars, but this habit it gives up as it increases in size. It conceals itself generally on the under surface of the leaf. In from 20 to 25 days it attains to full size, and is then about 2 inches long by $\frac{1}{4}$ inch broad at the centre, cylindrical, slightly tapering towards the extremities, provided with 4 pairs of black fleshy tentacles about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long, one pair being on each of the following segments—3, 4, 6, and 12, skin smooth, glossy, head black, 2nd segment white with two small black dots on the back; all the other segments white with a broad band of black round the centre of each; legs black. Segments 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 have on each side on the black ground small round patches of bright scarlet, particularly distinct on the 6th and 11th segments; belly black.

On attaining its full size the grub spins a small pad of silk on the under surface of a leaf, attaching its last pair of legs firmly to this pad and hanging thus freely suspended head downwards; it remains thus for about 24 hours, when it casts its skin and changes to pupa.

The pupa is naked, hanging freely suspended from its oval segment as in all the Nymphalidæ; it is 1 inch long by $\frac{7}{16}$ broad; colour golden yellow, with large patches of bright metallic gold, the black spots on the wings of the butterfly showing through the yellow parts of the chrysalis.

In 12 or 13 days the pupa loses its brilliant colouring and metallic lustre and turns black, and about 24 hours later the butterfly emerges.

I have given a few specimens of the pupa to the Natural History Society, so that if my description is faulty it can be corrected.

The food-plant I was unable to define, but I left some leaves with the Society, and perhaps they have been classed by this time. The creeper was unfortunately not in flower, nor could I find any seeds.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE FEEDING, &c., OF THE
INDIAN ROCK SNAKE (*PYTHON MOLURUS*)
KEPT IN THE SOCIETY'S ROOMS,

From 27th May 1886 to 20th May 1887.

By H. M. PHIPSON, C.M.Z.S., HON. SEC., B. NAT. HIST. SOC.

THE following particulars, showing the amount of food consumed by the Python in the Society's Rooms in one year with the varia-

tions of its temperature during the period of hybernation and other details will, I think, be of interest to the members.

During the twelve months between 27th May 1886 and 20th May 1887, the snake ate 23 rats, 3 hens, 3 crows, and 1 kestrel, all of which were given to it alive. It is worthy of note that the rats, on being placed in the cage appeared to take little or no notice of the snake. They would frequently run over its coils in their efforts to find a way out of the cage, and on occasions, when the snake remained quiet for a time, they would frequently approach it, smell it, and even bite it. The hens appeared to have even less instinctive fear of the snake, and would, if left to themselves for a short time, commence scratching and picking up grains in the cage. The crows, on the other hand, showed considerable apprehension of the danger.

It will be seen that during the hot months the period of digestion averaged about eight days, whereas in the cold weather it became much slower, the two rats eaten on 21st December being retained until 28th February.

During the cold weather, from 21st December to 13th April, a period of 113 days, the snake refused food and remained in a very sluggish, sleepy condition. During this period of hybernation the temperature of the reptile fell from 82° (normal) to 73°, a fall of 9 degrees. Taking the temperature was a matter of considerable difficulty. The snake is very strong, and it often required as many as six persons to hold it still while the thermometer was inserted. The results are, however, of particular value, as such observations cannot be made in European menageries, where artificial heat has to be used.

The snake cast its slough four times during the course of the year: three times in the hot weather, at intervals of 2 months, and once after it had recovered from its hybernation.

Date when Fed.	Description of Food.	Date of Defecation.	Date of Casting Slough.	Temperature taken.	Temperature.
1886.		1886.	1886.	1886.	
27th May	1 Kestrel	3rd June ...	27th May ...	.....
7th June	1 Rat	12th June ...	.....	.....
22nd „	1 Crow	29th June ...	.....	.....
25th „	1 Rat	17th July ...	17th July.....	.....
28th „	3 Rats	1st August.	.....	.....
20th July	1 Rat.....				
27th „	1 Rat.....				

Date when Fed.	Description of Food.	Date of Defæcation.	Date of Casting Slough.	Temperature taken.	Temperature.
1886.		1886.	1886.	1886.	
28th July	1 Crow	6th August..	.....	.....
29th „	1 Crow				
2nd August...	1 Rat.....	22nd August.	.....	.....
4th „	1 Rat.....				
6th „	1 Rat.....				
26th „	1 Rat.....	2nd Sept. ...	.....	.....
30th „	1 Rat.....	27th Sept. ...	27th Sept. ...	.....
10th September	1 Rat.....				
28th „	1 Rat.....	14th October.	.....	.....
13th October...	1 Hen	2nd Nov. ...	.....	.....
21st „	1 Rat.....				
30th „	1 Hen			9th Nov.	82 °
8th November	1 Rat.....	27th Dec. ...	.....	28th „	79½°
17th December.	1 Rat.....				
19th „	1 Rat.....	1887.			
21st „	2 Rats	28th Feb. ...	.....	.....
1887.			1887.	1887.	
13th April	1 Rat.....	Thrown up....	10th April ...	3rd January	75½
24th „	1 Rat.....	1st May.....	.....	29th „	73
10th May	1 Rat.....	16th „ .....	.....	20th Feb.	78
20th „	1 Hen	28th „ .....	.....	7th March	82

NOTES ON THE BREEDING OF THE KENTISH RINGED
PLOVER (*ÆGIALITIS CANTIANUS*) WITHIN
INDIAN LIMITS.

BY LIEUT. H. E. BARNES.

MANY years ago Captain (now Colonel) Vincent Legge found the Kentish Dotterel breeding in numbers on the banks of the salt pans in the south-eastern portion of the island of Ceylon.

Mr. Hume having received eggs and a skin from Captain Legge writes as follows in *Nests and Eggs of Indian Birds* :—

“Two of these eggs sent me by Mr. Legge measure respectively 1·23 and 1·2 by 0·87 and 0·85, and therefore in dimensions correspond precisely with those of the next species,* as, indeed, they do also in colour, shape, and markings.

“Mr. Legge also favoured me with one of the old birds, which he considered to have belonged to the eggs. It is clearly *Cantianus*, but it is in entirely non-breeding plumage (though killed on the 7th July) without either black or rufous about the head. He also informs me that all the specimens killed by him at that time were similarly in non-breeding plumage.

* 849. *Ægialitis dubia*.